



Delray Beach Orchid Society

VOLUME 19 Issue:3

March, 2023

Welcome

Message from Your President

Auction Orchids Sample



Hello DBOS Members,

My mango tree is in bloom and Spring is here! I hope you are working on your orchids repotting and cleaning up as much as possible before our hot humid weather starts. I am also working on making space for beautiful new orchids that I will be bidding on, and hopefully win, at our "Annual Orchid Auction" on March 8th.

Monthly Meeting: Annual Auction

This year we have beautiful Cattleyas, Oncidiums, Brassidiums and we even have a 'Monnierara Millennium Magic 'Witchcraft', from our favorite Show orchid vendors. Thank you to Krull Smith Orchids, Odom's Orchids, So. Orchids, Plantio la Orquidia, Mac Orchids, Quest Orchids and Springwater Orchids for their generosity and contributions. We could not have so many amazing orchids for our fundraising auction. Cash or check only. See left for sample orchids to entice you.

There will not be any raffles or plant judging but please remember to bring in some snacks to share.

Annual Membership Due:

Please don't forget to renew your 2023 membership effective January 1st. We don't want to lose you as a member, but if your payment is not received by March 15th, you will be taken off our active roster. So don't miss out on our interesting and educational monthly meetings, fun events and newsletter. Please mail your \$20 check to:
Delray Beach Orchid Society, PO Box 6571, Delray Beach, FL 33482.

Save the Dates:

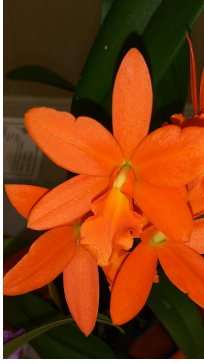
"Wine in the Garden" is on Saturday, March 11th at Delray Garden Center from 1-4pm. Join us for a fun afternoon socializing, wine and appetizers plus a tour of the green houses. More details to follow.

The '2023 Bus Ramble' will take place on Saturday, April 15th, leaving Old School Square garage, going to RF Orchids and Soroa Orchids in Homestead. We had a 'Blast' last year and hoping to be just as much fun this year. Hopefully we will have some raffle items, coffee and donuts in the morning and wine and treats on the drive home. Seats are limited, first come first serve, so please mail your payment can be made to DBOS and sent to our P.O. Box P.O. Box 6571, Delray Beach, FL 33482-6571 or pay at the meeting.

Happy Spring! and hope to see everyone at our March. 8, 2023 meeting. Doors open early at 6:30pm, so you can check out the orchids to bid on.

Happy growing
Chickie Tobias
DBOS President
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chickietobiasfl@gmail.com

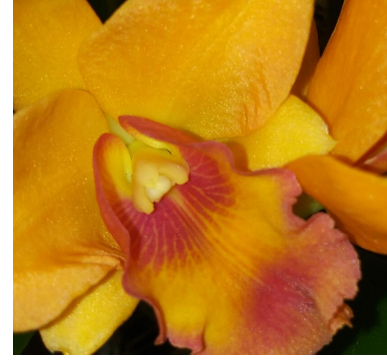
**FEBRUARY MEETING
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
BLUE RIBBON WINNERS**



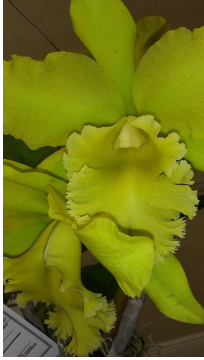
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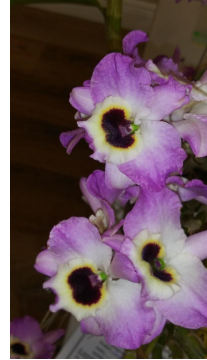
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Orchids: Hidden Stories of Groundbreaking Women **From the Smithsonian Gardens**

Barrier-breaking botanists. Cutting-edge conservationists. Inspired illustrators. Women have played many roles in the quest to discover, document, and conserve orchids. Since orchid mania began in the mid 1800's, many women were involved in bringing and growing these stunning and unusual flowers.

Rebecca T. Northen **The Julia Child of Orchids**

American biologist Rebecca Northen (1910–2004) traveled the world studying and collecting orchids. Her 1950 book, *Home Orchid Growing*, did for orchid growing what Julia Child did for French cooking: demystifying it for a general audience. Seventy years later, it is still one of the best-known reference books on how to cultivate orchids.

Sarah Drake **Prolific Plant Painter**

British botanical artist Sarah Drake (1803–1857) specialized in painting orchids. She illustrated several books, including *The Orchidaceae of Mexico and Guatemala*, which has been called “the finest orchid book ever issued.” The Australian orchid genus *Drakaea* is named in her honor.

Edith Coleman **Pollination Pioneer**

Australian naturalist Edith Coleman (1874–1951) made a groundbreaking discovery about orchid pollination. After observing wasps entering certain species of orchids, she found that the orchids mimicked the shape of female wasps to entice male wasps to pollinate them. Her discovery revolutionized the field of orchid pollination.

Hanna Bogna Margońska **Trailblazing Taxonomist**

Polish botanist Hanna Bogna Margońska is known for her work in orchid taxonomy—the science of naming, describing, and classifying orchids. A prolific scientific writer, Margońska has authored or coauthored descriptions of nearly 500 orchids, mainly in Southeast Asia, the Western Pacific, and Australia.

Margaret Mee

Rainforest Conservationist

Artist and environmentalist Margaret Mee (1909-1988) documented the rare flora of the Amazon Rainforest, including many orchids. Her work drew attention to the need to protect the Amazon rainforest from illegal mining and logging.

To read more, [click here](#).



MARCH GROWING FROM DR. MOTES

Whilst March never comes in like a lion in South Florida, occasionally it slinks in like a bob cat. Frost is not unheard of in the first few days of the month. The more cold sensitive genera, hard cane dendrobiums, phalaenopsis and vandas may well need some protection even into the middle of the month. Overall, however, March brings us some of the most ideal orchid growing conditions of the entire year. Dry air, low humidity and wide swings of day to night temperatures optimize both blooming and rooting of most orchids. In March, Nature gives orchidists growing outside a free sample of what life would be like with a covered green house. With little or no additional water falling from the sky and drying breezes acting like fans, we are in total control of our plants' water needs. Now, we can water properly: very heavily, and allow the plants to dry thoroughly in the near desert air before the next heavy application of water.

The ideal growing conditions of March present a great opportunity to get our plants off to a superlative start on the new growing season. The virtuous among us, who have already re-potted their cattleyas and other sympodials as they have finished blooming across the winter, can smile serenely, assured of their place in orchid heaven. For us few reprobate it is still not too late to catch up with virtue. In addition to flowered-out plants, now is also the time to replant those genera which are breaking or ready to break their dormancy; i.e. catasetums, mormodes, calanthes and those Himalayan species that have finished flowering. Now is also an excellent time to re-pot those hard cane dendrobiums that need it, with the reminder that they really don't like to be disturbed and relish their roots being crowded in the pot.

For those commercially mass produced plants grown in peat based mixtures, repotting is necessary in any case as the peat mix will not last out the summer and will likely rot all the roots. Hopefully these will have rooted so thoroughly that the roots have formed a solid mass that can be shifted undisturbed to a new only slightly larger pot. Otherwise the roots will need to be washed clean and lightly trimmed. Rock, tree fern, coconut husk, charcoal/wood chip mixes are best replacement media for the long haul. All of these materials have a life expectancy of several years before they break down in South Florida wet humid summers.

Excerpted from *Florida Orchid Growing: Month by Month* by Martin Motes. All rights reserved.

Dr. Motes

Motes Orchids



FROM THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY Monthly Checklist for March and April

Cattleya

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most

growers like to have the final support to have the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

TO READ MORE FROM THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY, [CLICK HERE](#).

Help raise funds for DBOS by using Amazon Smile .

Did you know that you can help support DBOS by using [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com). Amazon Smile will donate a portion of the eligible purchases to DBOS, just name Delray Beach Orchid Society as your favorite charity and shop at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com).

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Bernadette Garfinkel
Kim Jacobs
Priscilla Roper

Past President

Michele Owens

Newsletter Editor: [Valerie Smith](#)

Club Photographer: John Morris

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Upcoming Events

Veteran’s Park Recreation building is located on the west side of the intracostal waterway on the north side of Atlantic Avenue. Construction is on going to the park, but the driv way is open.

Scheduled Meetings and Events:

March 8, 2023: Annual Orchid Auction.

March 11, 2023: Wine in the Garden

April 12: Repotting and Mounting Hands-on Workshop.

April 15, 2023: Orchid Bus Ramble

May 10, 2023: Omar Gonzalez: "Amazing Cattleya Hybrids You Can Grow"

June 14, 2023: Rick Ackerman: "What's in a Name, You Ask"?

Find out what is happening on our Facebook page. Join Us [On Facebook](#)

Website: www.DelrayBeachOrchidSociety.com

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you have any suggestions or comments regarding the Society, meetings or this newsletter, please feel free to contact our President, Chickie Tobias at 561 445-5605 or [email](#).

If you have special event in your life or know of a member who is ill, please call our Corresponding Secretary, James Mangan at 561 310-1189 or via [e-mail](#).

Moving? Changed your e-mail or phone number? We don't want to lose contact with you. Please contact our Membership Chair, Scott Santoro at sansantoro@mac.com

